was some resentment among the growers on account of fall in prices of tobacoo since 13-4-1992 as compared to the last year. Auctions at 15 out of 23 platforms were suspended.

(c) Taking note of the resentment of the tobacco growers, the Government advised the Tobacco Board to immediately hold an emergency meeting of the Board to take stock of the situation and to take remedial steps. The Chairman of the Tobacco Board has impressed upon the traders including the exporters and manufactures of cigarettes the need for offering remunerative prices to the farmers in the overall interest of the industry. Major buyers including he Russians have also been approached to step up their purchases. Auctions have since been resumed at all the 23 centres. Prices are also showing an upward trend.

Shifting the Tea Companies Head Office from Calcutta to Assam

1715. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for which Government have directed the tea companies, athough they are in private sector to shift their head office from Calcutta to Assam ; and

(b) what are the details of the obstacles in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No directions have been issued by the Government to the tea companies to shift their head offices from Calcutta to Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

Posting of Officers in M.T.N.L., Delhi and Bombay

1716. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that officers of the rank of General Manager and above in the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited at New Delhi and Bombay are liable to be transferred from one place to another to ensure healthier administration ; and

(b) what are the particulars of such officers who have presently stayed in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi and Bombay for more than four years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS' (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Field officers working in Delhi and Bomaby units of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited are liable to be transferred on all India basis.

(b) A list of such officers is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

List of officers of Sag of its GR.- A in MTNL Delhi/Bombay with a stay of more than 4 years

Sl. No.	Name of the Officer	Name of Circle	Circle Date	Remarks
1	KHANNA B. M.	MTNL DI	25/03/86	
2	RAMACHANDRAN N.S.	-do-	21/11/84	
3	SARANATHAN T.G.	-do-	09/01/87	
4	TRIKHA K. K.	-do-	03/11/76	
5	GARG S. K. D.	-do-	11/05/87	
6	MEHROTRA G. K.	-do-	19/04/85	
7	AGARWAL S.P.	-do-	17/09/86	
8	BUDHIRAJA K. D.	-do-	02/12/85	
9	GUPTA K. R.	MTNL BY	11/01/85	